

December 21, 2023

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the undersigned community, conservation, climate, labor, public health, faith, and business groups, we applaud your early and bold leadership to prioritize offshore wind as an essential new clean energy resource with the power to drive transformational benefits across the country. Your actions have ensured the U.S is making great strides in advancing offshore wind development along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. In order to maintain momentum at this pivotal moment, continued and expanded efforts across the federal government are needed to secure a solid foundation for this emerging industry.

We support the Biden-Harris administration's 30 gigawatts by 2030 goal as a key milestone on the path to unlocking the immense clean energy capacity, good-paying union jobs, robust workforce development, strong economic growth, and significant climate mitigation this domestic resource can provide to our country. We welcome the administration's efforts to advance leasing, permitting, and planning for offshore wind development along all coasts, as well as the recent unprecedented federal investments and cross-sector activities focused on port and vessel advancement, supply chain and workforce development, transmission solutions, environmental justice initiatives, community-based programs and partnerships, and natural resource protection strategies. The landmark Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) are currently driving game-changing investments in clean energy across the country, including offering a critical springboard for the American offshore wind industry.

Our organizations stand in strong support of offshore wind development that equitably benefits and protects communities, workers, wildlife, and our coastal and marine resources. Offshore wind power has unmatched potential to deliver positive impacts for our climate, our communities, and our local economies. That potential is maximized when projects are developed with broad, meaningful engagement and strong environmental, community, and worker protections in place from the start.

Construction of our nation's first two large commercial-scale projects is currently underway, providing just a preview of the new economic growth, job creation, and investments that this resource can unlock for communities across the country when developed at scale. East coast states are collectively planning on more than 40 gigawatts of offshore wind projects to meet their ambitious clean energy and climate goals, with emerging markets also gaining traction on the Pacific and Gulf coasts. As a result of your administration's efforts, alongside both public and private sector leaders, offshore wind deployment has begun and is bringing substantial benefits to communities in these regions as well as inland along the supply chain, with exponential growth expected in the years ahead.

At the same time, current economic conditions and geopolitical pressures—including inflation, high interest rates, unprecedented supply chain challenges, and other dynamics common to energy markets—have combined to create challenging headwinds for the global offshore wind industry and America’s first major round of commercial project development. In response, states have taken a variety of innovative measures to build resilience into their offshore wind markets. Likewise, the industry is actively working to adjust and, where possible, rebid their contracts in order to keep projects moving forward. Ensuring we do not lose ground in the launch of American offshore wind power—just when our economy, environment and communities need it the most—also requires further action from the federal government.

We urge continued federal leadership to unlock offshore wind’s potential, including: expanding and reinforcing the administration’s whole-of-government commitment to offshore wind power; accelerating the development of a robust and equitable domestic supply chain; and strengthening intergovernmental and regional coordination to spur and sustain the collaboration needed for a successful U.S. offshore wind industry.

A key opportunity lies in the IRA, which is already driving massive job creation and hundreds of billions of dollars in investments that further our energy independence and position the U.S. as a global leader in clean energy innovation. Building on the recent announcement to clarify eligibility for on- and offshore transmission infrastructure, ensuring more comprehensive access to the IRA’s tax credits for offshore wind investments will help address the impacts of inflation facing the industry, further revitalize manufacturing, port, host, and energy communities, and unleash even more benefits for workers, communities, and our environment. Given upcoming bid deadlines in early 2024 for thousands of megawatts of contracts across six state markets, clarifying tax credit eligibility is urgently needed to help ensure both bidders and state leaders can make well-informed procurement decisions.

At this formative moment in the American offshore wind energy market, we applaud your continued leadership and stand in strong support of increased action to advance the strategic policies, investments, and other efforts needed to ensure the high-potential U.S. offshore wind industry can weather current challenges and unleash transformational benefits for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Turn Forward
350 New Hampshire
350 Mass
350 Pensacola
Acadia Center
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Association to Preserve Cape Cod
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Bold Alliance

California Environmental Voters
Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Center for Planning Excellence
Ceres
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Climate Action Rhode Island
Climate Law & Policy Project

Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
Delaware Interfaith Power & Light
Elders Climate Action
Elders Climate Action - Massachusetts Chapter
Environment America
Environment Texas
Environmental Advocates NY
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Environmental Protection Information Center
Jersey Renews Coalition
Healthy Gulf
Institute for a Progressive Nevada
Interfaith Power & Light
International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers LU 716 Houston, Texas
International Union of Painters and Allied
Trades District Council 10
Ironworkers Local 7
League of Conservation Voters
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Mass Audubon
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and
Health
National Aquarium
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NC League of Conservation Voters
NC Sustainable Energy Association

New Jersey Sustainable Business Council
New Jersey League of Conservation Voters
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Offshore Wind Alliance
Newark Science and Sustainability Inc
NJ Work Environment Council
North Atlantic States Regional Council of
Carpenters
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Defense Initiative
Reel Therapy Fishing Charters NY/NJ Bight
Roots 2Empower
Salem Alliance for the Environment
Sierra Club
Special Initiative on Offshore Wind
Southeastern Wind Coalition
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southwest Laborers District Council (LIUNA)
Southwest Gulf Coast Regional Council of
SMART
Texas AFL-CIO
Texas Climate Jobs Project
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
UA Plumbers Local Union 68
Union of Concerned Scientists
Urban Ocean Lab
Vermont Conservation Voters
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Virginia League of Conservation Voters

CC: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
The Honorable Gina Raimondo, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
The Honorable Janet Yellen, Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury
John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the President, Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation
Ali Zaidi, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality